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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,743	04/02/2004	Massimo Padoan	38882/GM/cd	1541

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EXAMINER

MILLER, PATRICK L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2837

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/815,743

Applicant(s)

PADOAN, MASSIMO

Examiner

Patrick Miller

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04022004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: see bullet(s) below. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

- Figure 2 does not disclose at least items 137-139.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-13 are objected to because of the following informalities: see bullet(s) below. Appropriate correction is required.

- Please delete the dashes (--) in each claim.
- Claim 1 recites, "particularly for at least two windshield wipers." This wording is indefinite. Either the device is used with windshield wipers or it is not.
- Claim 3 recites, "an appropriately provided interface" (l. 3).

- Claim 9 recites, “is adapted to.” Change to “that removes power...”
- Claim 10 recites, “are adapted to.” Change to “which reduce the power supply...”
- Claim 12 recites, “are adapted to.” Change to “which select the rotation rate.”
- Claim 13 recites two occurrences of “adapted to.” Make corrections consistent with the previous examples above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 5, 10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.
 - Claim 5 recites that the remote control system contains the listed means. From the specification, and specifically from Figure 2, this limitation is not supported. Namely, Figure 2 shows #121 as the remote control system. Neither the Figures nor the specification disclose that the remote control system contains the means listed in claim 5.
 - Claims 10, 12, and 13 recite that the means for correcting time has two switches in parallel. However, Figures 4-7 appear to show the means for activating/deactivating the motor comprising the parallel switches.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Welch (5,568,026).

- With respect to claim 1, Welch discloses a synchronization device for at least two windshield wipers, where each wiper has a blade and is connected to an electric motor that oscillates each blade between two preset positions (Fig. 1a); a means for activating and deactivating the motor (Fig. 1b, #16 sends DMD and DB1); a means for signaling the transit and direction of each blade through a preset reference position (Fig. 1b, input to #s 22 and 23); a means for controlling the signals and driving the activation means (Fig. 1b, #16; col. 3, ll. 35-38); a means for determining the wiping time for each of the wipers, a means for measuring the lead time error of a faster wiper, a means for calculating a correction time, where the correction time reduces the lead error, and said correction time is a function of the corresponding lead error, a means for identifying, at each wipe, the slower wiper, and a means for applying each of the correction times to the corresponding motor of the faster wiper (Fig. 1b, #16 has does all of the functions; col. 5, ll. 14-37; cols. 6/7, ll. 40-67/1-22).
- With respect to claim 2, Welch discloses the means for controlling the activation/deactivation means, the means for determining wiping time, the means for

measuring lead error, the means for calculating the correction time, and the means for identifying the slower wiper are integrated in a single system (Fig. 1b, represents a single system).

- With respect to claim 3, Welch discloses each means for applying the correction time is connected to a communication bus, which is connected to a remote control system (Fig. 1b, #24 is remote from #16).
- With respect to claim 6, Welch discloses the means for applying correction times comprise the activation/deactivation means (Fig. 1, #16 performs both functions).
- With respect to claim 8, Welch discloses the means for signaling the transit and direction comprise an automatic parking switch that emits a synchronization signal (cols. 1/2, ll. 64-67/1-4).
- With respect to claim 9, Welch discloses the means for applying the correction time comprises a switch that removes power from the motor (Fig. 1b, DBS1 and DBS2 ground the motor winding, which effectively removes power; see col. 2, ll. 28-36).
- With respect to claim 11, Welch discloses the motor is a two-speed type (Fig. 1b, #24 controls motor puts motor in HI or LO speeds, respectively).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welch as applied to claims 1 and 3 above, and further in view of Braun et al. (6,218,741).

- Welch does not disclose the limitations of claims 4 and 5.
- Braun et al. discloses a windshield wiper system that uses a radio link to control a control unit (Fig. 1, #14 controls #10). The motivation to use a radio to control a controller is so an operator can easily change specifications or parameters based on system requirements (col. 2, ll. 63-67).
- Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement a radio link to control the microprocessor of Welch, which means that the radio link would control the means for applying the correction time, the means for controlling the activation/deactivation means, the means for determining the wiping time, the means for identifying the slower wiper, and the means for measuring the lead time error. The motivation to implement a radio link into the system of Welch is so an operator can easily change the specifications or parameters from, for example, the cabin of an automobile, as taught by Braun et al.

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6. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welch as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kühbauch (5,157,314).

- Welch does not disclose the limitations of claim 7.
- Kühbauch discloses using proximity switches to determine the position of the wiper at various points as it moves across the windshield. The motivation to use proximity switches is because they can be arranged in the windshield border, at the edge of the windshield, or in the body of the vehicle (col. 6, ll. 44-55). This provides the advantage of allowing flexibility in design choice.
- Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use proximity switches to supply the wiper position signals to the microcomputer in the device of Welch, thereby providing the advantage of allowing flexibility in design choice, as taught by Kühbauch.

7. Claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welch as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hayden (5,630,009).

- Welch does not disclose the limitations of claims 10 and 12.
- With respect to claim 10, Hayden discloses the means for activating/deactivating the motor comprises two switches in parallel, where one of the parallel configurations reduces the power supply to the motor (Fig. 3, #230 has a contact, which is interpreted as two switches in parallel; contact reduces the power supply to zero in the OFF position), and the other parallel configuration selects the rotation rate (Fig. 3, #104 controls the rate – either HI or LO). The motivation to use two switches in parallel is to prevent motor stalling, overheating, and burnout (abstract).

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- Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to replace each of the switching devices of Welch (Fig. 1b, R1 and R2), with two switches in parallel, thereby providing the advantage preventing motor stalling, overheating, and burnout, as taught by Hayden.
8. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welch as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ishikawa et al. (4,742,280).
- Welch does not disclose the limitations of claim 13.
 - Ishikawa et al. disclose the means for activating/deactivating comprising two switches (Fig. 2, #103 and #102). The switches are configured in series, with switch 103 controlling the motor speed and switch 102 activating and deactivating the motor (col. 3, ll. 23-55). The motivation to implement the switches in series as described above is so the user can control both the speed and direction of the motor.
 - Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement switches in series into the Welch device, thereby providing the advantage of allowing a user to control both the speed of the motor/wipers and the direction of rotation, as taught by Ishikawa et al.

MARLON T. FLETCHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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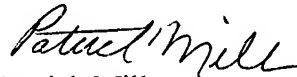
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick Miller whose telephone number is 571-272-2070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Martin can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 41. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-3431.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Patrick Miller
Examiner
Art Unit 2837

pm
June 26, 2005


MARLON T. FLETCHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER